

**CLAIMS**

1. A billing system for automatically charging a call to a predetermined telephone line, the billing system comprising:

- Sub a/
- a. a service configured to initiate a call that passes through the service;
  - b. a calling party selectively coupled to the service via the predetermined telephone line temporarily coupled to the call; and
  - c. a control point coupled to the service, the calling party, and the predetermined telephone line wherein the control point is configured to direct the call from the calling party directly to a called party such that the call is billed to the predetermined telephone line.

2. The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the service is a voice messaging system.

Sub b/

3. The billing system according to claim 1 further comprising a switch coupled to the control point configured to transfer the call from the service to the called party wherein the calling party and the called party are connected and the service is disconnected.

4. The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined telephone line is selectively determined by the calling party.

5. A billing system having a control point for automatically billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein the call is placed by a user through a service to a called party wherein the control point is coupled to the service, the called party, and the predetermined telephone line, and further wherein the control point is configured to automatically re-connect the user directly to the called party without passing through the service.

6. A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein a user initiates the call from a user location to a destination through a service, comprising the following steps:

- Sub a/
- a. conveying data from the service to a control point, wherein the data indicates the predetermined telephone line, and the destination, and the user location;

- 5 b. temporarily routing the call to the predetermined telephone line;  
6 c. forming a new call originating from the user location and terminating at the  
7 destination; and  
d. automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line.

1 7. The method according to claim 6 further comprising activating a terminating attempt  
trigger in a switch associated with the predetermined telephone line.

2 8. The method according to claim 7 further comprising automatically storing a call duration  
of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call on a switch in response to  
activating the terminating attempt trigger.

9. The method according to claim 6 further comprising automatically storing a call duration  
of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call on a switch associated with  
the predetermined telephone line.

10. The method according to claim 6 further comprising initializing the predetermined  
telephone line.

11. The method according to claim 6 wherein the user location is not at the predetermined  
telephone line.

12. The method according to claim 6 wherein the user location is the predetermined  
telephone line.

1 13. A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein a user initiates the  
2 call through a service from a user location to a destination, comprising the following steps:

- 3 a. conveying call data from the service to a control point wherein the control point is  
4 coupled to the user location, the predetermined telephone line, and the destination;  
5 b. terminating the call to the service;  
6 c. forming a new call to link the user location to the destination; and  
d. automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line.

1 14. The method according to claim 13 further comprising temporarily connecting the call to  
the predetermined telephone.

1 15. The method according to claim 14 further comprising the following steps:

- 2 a. terminating the call to the predetermined telephone line; and  
3 b. automatically querying the service control point via a terminating attempt trigger  
4 located within a switch associated with the predetermined telephone line in  
response to terminating the call to the predetermined telephone line.

1 16. The method according to claim 15 further comprising storing a call duration of the new  
2 call and a particular feature utilized during the new call on the switch in response to querying the  
service control point.